



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2016, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

First Presbyterian Church Community Garden (Robert Fisher, Don Chambers)

Iris Park (Judy Cromwell)

NLR City Council (Beth White)

NLR Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper, Sara Webb)

NLR Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott)

Skyline Community Garden (Diane Barton)

Shorter College Community Garden (Mary Harris)

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden (Ruth Landers)

St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden (Michael Merritt)

2:30-2:40 Welcome & Introductions

2:40-3:00 Fit 2 Live Updates

- Seed swap report – Over 50 participants. Great success!
- Soil Health workshop Saturday, March 26, 10 am–12 pm at First Presbyterian Church Community Garden
- Things to plant now: Indoors Summer squash, melon, cucumber, zucchini
- Extra seeds and starts available
- Mantis – will order.
- Upcoming work days
- Funding
- ARGC Update for next year: Each site is only eligible for one full-time or two part-time GardenCorps members.

3:00-3:25 Garden Updates

First Pres

- Good fertilizer: Liquid seaweed. 1 cup liquid seaweed per 5 gallons of water. Arkansas Gardens sells liquid seaweed. Farmers co-op sells dry seaweed – big bag for \$80.
- Putting in fence & gate
- Next funding, will ask for concrete blocks to make all beds 20" high
- Garden member put irrigation underground using PVC pipe
- Want to have water hydrant at each bed.

St. Joseph Hunger Relief Garden

- Planted 300 lbs of red potatoes with 15-20 volunteers
- Hoping to harvest 3,000 lbs to donate to Arkansas Foodbank
- Eagle Scout to put up fence using Fit 2 Live funding

Iris Park Community Garden

- Have compost, soil, vinyl, metal beds (3)
- Ordering more metal beds
- Need: wheelbarrow, hand tools, tool shed

Skyline Community Garden

- A few new families have joined
- Friends of the Garden have paid for water for the year
- Has mustard greens to share
- Baby kale is growing

St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden

- Have planted beans, onions (yellow & sweet), peas, carrots, okra
- Greens coming up
- 7 volunteers came out
- Held Easter Egg Hunt in garden

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden

- 20 total beds. Has waiting list.
- Replaced 5 members with new gardeners/teams
- Held orientation 1 week ago
- Pushing gardeners to log hours & harvests. Put requirement into garden rules, which gardeners must sign.
- Prize (garden tools) for “busiest bee” who logs the most hours in the garden
- All beds repaired now

Shorter College Community Garden

- Harvested greens, turnips, okra
- Cleared everything
- Whole garden planted now
- Students, staff, and community can harvest
- Excess food donated to Watershed.

3:25-3:30 Other Items/Public Comment

Request: Send group list of NLR food pantries with operating hours (attached).

3:30 Adjourned

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2:30-3:30 PM.**
- **Soil Health Workshop this Saturday, March 26, 10 am–12 pm, First Pres**
includes compost bin building!